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September 17, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1634

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/608,066; Filed: June 30, 2000
For: **Compositions and Methods for Enhanced Sensitivity and Specificity of Nucleic Acid Synthesis**
Inventors: Astatke *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4990001/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. PTO Fee Transmittal (PTO/SB/17);
2. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$2200.00 to cover the appropriate fees;
3. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
4. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal;
5. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
6. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
September 17, 2003
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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BJD/nef
Enclosures

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SKGF Rev. 2/15/02 dcw; 4/18/03 svb

